

Attorney Docket No: SVL920010001US1/206(P

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

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Grace Alicea

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Date: August , 2003

Jason A. CU et al.

Serial No.: 09/820,451

Group Art Unit: 2171

Filed: March 28, 2001

Examiner: Chen, Te Y.

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A GENERIC
SCALAR FUNCTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132

I, Jason Cu, hereby declare that:

1. I am the inventor of the subject matter recited in the claims of the above-identified U.S. application (the present application).
2. I have reviewed the specification of the present application as well as the drawings.
3. The following is based upon my reading of the specification of the present application as well as my knowledge and experience as an inventor.

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4. It is my opinion that based upon reading the specification of the present application, one of ordinary skill in the art will readily understand that portions of the method and system in accordance with the present invention are based on well known processes, particularly column functions, in relational databases. Column functions are already present in many conventional relational databases. One of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that column functions are used to operate on columns of data, which typically include a number of entries that is not determined at the time the column function is written.
5. Upon reading the specification of the present application, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily realize what a generalized scalar function is as well as how the generalized scalar function works. Upon reading the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that the generalized scalar function is termed a scalar function because it takes as inputs a predetermined number of arguments. In particular, the generalized scalar function takes data for a predetermined number of data items in a row as arguments. Upon reading the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would also readily recognize that the scalar function is used to take the data in the arguments (i.e. the row or rows) and rearrange the data such that it appears to a corresponding column function that the data (the row or rows) are actually column(s). In other words, one of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that the generalized scalar function mimics a column environment for the column function.

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6. Upon reading the specification of the present application, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that the column function utilizes the (mimicked) data provided by the generalized scalar function. The column function can use this data in a conventional manner because the generalized scalar function has rearranged the data in a manner that mimics a column environment. Thus, the column function still functions in a conventional manner.
7. Thus, the operations of conventional column functions, such as locating a minimum or maximum, can be performed for rows without rewriting the entire function. Instead, as described in the specification of the present application, the column function is reused for rows that have been input to the generalized scalar function.
8. Consequently, upon reading the specification of the present application, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the scope of the present application, would understand that the inventors had possession of the invention, and would be capable of making and/or using the invention recited in varying scope in the claims of the present application.



Jason A. CU

August 22, 2003
Date